

MEN OF PROGRESS.

WISCONSIN.

A SELECTED LIST OF BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCHES AND PORTRAITS OF THE

LEADERS IN BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL
AND OFFICIAL LIFE.

TOGETHER WITH SHORT NOTES ON THE
HISTORY AND CHARACTER OF WISCONSIN.

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MEN OF PROGRESS.

committee four years, and also treasurer of the Democratic state central committee of Wisconsin.

In 1893 Mr. Mitchell was elected to the Senate of the United States, succeeding Philetus Sawyer. The contest for the Democratic nomination was a protracted one and stubbornly contested, there being three candidates—E. S. Bragg, J. H. Knight and Mr. Mitchell. The latter had the largest following as “second choice” in addition to his own band of unyielding adherents, and after a memorable campaign finally won out. As a member of either house of congress Mr. Mitchell has won the respect and esteem of associates. His military training and the legislative needs of the soldiers’ homes, as well as a large soldier constituency, not only secured him places on the military and pensions committees, but provided him with an abundance of work. He makes no stump speeches, but attends to his legislative work, in committee and otherwise, with fidelity and with a fixed determination to do what he believes is right. He supported the imposition of an income tax against the influence of associates in business and opposed the free coinage of silver in opposition to the platform of associates in politics. A great reader and student of public questions, and with quick and accurate perceptions, he is prepared to pass upon legislative matters as they arise, and his opinions pass at par with his associates in the senate.

Upon the death of his father Mr. Mitchell succeeded to the interests of the former in various important trusts and business enterprises, chief of which are the Wisconsin Marine & Fire Insurance Company Bank and the Northwestern National Insurance company. He is also trustee, director or patron of public institutions, such as the Layton Art Gallery, Milwaukee College, Milwaukee Hospital, etc.; is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Wisconsin Commandery of the Loyal Legion and the Society of the Army of the Cumberland. He was married in 1878 to Harriet Danforth

Becker, a lady of many graces of character and rare intellectual attainments, who is prominently identified with the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. They have seven children. The eldest, Willie, is attending Columbia College; the second child, Martha, is in an academy for young ladies near Washington. The others are Janet, Harriet, Ruth, Catherine and John L., Jr. One child, born abroad, died in infancy, and is buried in Florence.

AIKENS, ANDREW JACKSON, editor and manufacturer, was born at Barnard, Vt., Oct. 31, 1830. His paternal ancestors were Scotch, from Montrose, settling in Massachusetts about 1660, and on his mother’s side he is descended from John Howland, the last survivor of those who came over in the Mayflower. After being graduated from the high school at the age of fifteen, he entered the printing office of Charles G. Eastman at Woodstock, and served an apprenticeship of four years, when he was promoted to the editorship of the paper. He edited a weekly newspaper at Bennington, Vt., and afterward a weekly at North Adams, Mass., whence he went to Boston, acting as reporter in the state legislature, and as proof-reader in the state printing office. He took an active interest in politics early in manhood, and his ability as an organizer and campaign speaker was recognized by his selection as a delegate from Massachusetts to the Free Soil national convention at Pittsburg in 1852, which nominated John P. Hale for president. He was active in this campaign, which marked the beginning of the Republican party, and spoke in many towns of New England in behalf of the Free Soil national ticket. His adherence to the Republican party has been steadfast, and he is still a vigorous advocate of its principles. Going from Boston to New York, he was engaged upon The New York Evening Post

MEN OF PROGRESS.



ANDREW JACKSON AIKENS.

in 1853, and was sent to the western states as special correspondent. He visited Milwaukee in the spring of 1854, settled there in the early summer, and soon after became connected with the Evening Wisconsin. Jan. 1, 1857, he assumed the business management of the newspaper and printing departments. In this capacity he was chiefly instrumental in building up the Evening Wisconsin, until it became one of the most influential and prosperous newspapers west of the great lakes. He has been a contributor to the columns of the Evening Wisconsin for forty-three years, expressing his opinions upon current topics with clearness and cogency. During two trips to Europe, in 1877 and 1878, his letters to the Evening Wisconsin were received with wide interest and admiration. He is a man of broad culture, who is thoroughly familiar through daily reading with the books of his private library, a collection of unusual size, and it is his invariable practice to consult daily with his partners, the venerable and wise head of the Evening Wisconsin company, William E. Cramer, and his careful and prudent junior, Jno. F. Cramer. Although he is 66 years of

age, he is in daily attendance at his business office, and in close control of the largest and most complete newspaper and printing establishment in the state of Wisconsin. Mr. Aikens has a natural aptitude for mechanics, and has exhibited facility in the mechanical matters of his business, many of his mechanical devices and methods of work having been sufficiently novel to be patented. This naturally brought him in close contact with the working forces of the mechanical departments of his establishments, and he has always taken a deep interest in the welfare of his employees. He personally instructed the printers, pressmen and engineers of all his offices, and hundreds of prosperous newspaper men and printers in various parts of the United States, who learned the business in the Evening Wisconsin, acknowledge with pleasure the value of the early instruction they received from him. Mr. Aikens placed in important responsible posts in the offices he established in other cities men who learned the printing business under his supervision in Milwaukee. The method of printing newspapers on one side at a central office and on the other side at the office of publication (commonly called "patent insides") originated with Mr. Aikens in 1863. Mr. Aikens' improvement upon the English method of printing auxiliary newspapers consisted in the addition to the general news of the paper of a page for general advertising; the compensation for this advertising partly, and sometimes wholly, paying for the cost of the white paper to the publisher. The firm of Cramer, Aikens & Cramer commenced the publication of the "patent insides" with advertisements in 1864, being the pioneer house in the business. There are now 8,000 papers printed upon that plan in the United States—more than one-half of all the weekly newspapers, at a saving of millions of dollars. Mr. Aikens was active and energetic in the development of his method of providing country newspapers with ready-printed sheets. He founded the Newspaper Unions at Chicago, New York, Cincinnati, Nashville,

MEN OF PROGRESS.

Atlanta and Memphis, establishments which furnished "patent insides" to over 2,000 newspapers while under his management, and which now serve over 3,000 newspapers with ready-printed sheets. For three years previous to his assumption of the business management of the Evening Wisconsin, Mr. Aikens was city and commercial editor of the paper. He was the first secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and published for three years a compilation of the statistics of the trade and commerce of Milwaukee. One of these statistical reports was deemed so valuable by the city authorities that the common council ordered the purchase of a large edition for distribution in foreign countries, in the interest of immigration. Mr. Aikens is an officer of the Associated Press, of which he has been an active member for the past thirty years. He was a charter member of the Milwaukee club, which was organized in his private office, and was an important officer of the club during the time in which it was placing itself on a permanent footing. He is at present at the head of the Milwaukee Typothetae, an association of employing printers. He has been actively interested in shooting clubs, and was for many years at the head of the Caw-Caw Shooting club. He is also one of the oldest members of the Chicago club. Mr. Aikens has been twice married. In 1854 he was united to Amanda L. Barnes of Pittsfield, Mass., by whom he had three daughters who are still living—Stella Cramer-Johnson, Alice Marian-Bremer, and Mary Lydia Aikens. In May, 1893, he was married to Katharine Vine-Crehore of Minneapolis, by whom he has a son, Andrew Jackson, born March 22, 1896. Mr. Aikens' ability, integrity, high character and generosity make him popular among all classes of people. Like most men of his rare type, he is loth to assume any special credit for his ability or for his business achievements, and his consent to the insertion of this brief history of his busy life among the sketches of the progressive men of his adopted state was hesitatingly given.

FLANNIGAN, LAWRENCE W., a resident of Marinette, is the son of William and Margaret Sheridan Flannigan, farmers in moderate financial circumstances. The father of Margaret Sheridan and Gen. Phil. Sheridan's father were own cousins, and the ancestors of both parents were Irish.

Lawrence W. Flannigan was born in the town of Mitchell, Wis., in February, 1856. He received only a common school education and at the age of sixteen left his farm home, went right into the lumber woods and started a logging business for himself. With the energy and enthusiasm peculiar to a bright, ambitious boy, he made rapid progress in the working out of his own financial salvation. He had the faculty of seeing what enterprises gave best promise of success and the courage and promptness to seize them at the most favorable time, and then the determination and perseverance to carry them forward to a successful conclusion. So that now, when but forty-one years of age, he has become the owner of valuable pine lands in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Arkansas, and has a large fortune in sight, if not in actual possession. He is also interested in valuable mines in Michigan and Colorado, which are expected to yield a handsome return for the investment. He has a large stock farm in Minnesota, where he raises some of the finest stock to be found in that state of beautiful and productive farms.

In politics Mr. Flannigan is a Democrat, but in 1896 affiliated with the gold wing of the party and voted for Palmer for president. He is not, however, ambitious of office and has steadily refused to accept any honors of that kind.

He is a Knight of Pythias and a member of the Catholic Knights, and of the Catholic church. His wife is a member of the Episcopal church.

Mr. Flannigan was married in September, 1888, to Lucy Good, daughter of Geo. Good of Oconto, Wis., and they have two children: Marian and Helen Mildreth.